

Aquatic Ecosystems and Fish in the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Plan Revision



Forest Plan Collaborative
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Fish Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act

- Fall Chinook Salmon (Salmon and Clearwater basin)
- Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon (Salmon basin only)
- Steelhead Trout
- Bull Trout



Photo courtesy of Steve Pettit

Jurisdiction for Listed Fish Species

- Bull Trout – US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon, Fall Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout – NOAA Fisheries



Photo courtesy of Bart Gammet

What does this mean for Forest Plan revision?

- Critical Habitat
- Section 7 Consultation
- Recovery Planning
- PACFISH/INFISH



PACFISH/INFISH

- Amended Forest Plans in mid- 1990s.
- Fundamentally changed project planning
- Intended to be INTERIM direction until Forest Plans were revised.
- The new Forest Plans were intended to replace PACFISH/INFISH with more site-specific Aquatic Conservation Strategies

PACFISH/INFISH and the New Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Plan

- Will be replaced with an Aquatic Conservation Strategy (“ACS”).
- The “ACS” will incorporate PACFISH/INFISH goals in the form of Forest Plan components.
- These components will be developed with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS.



What Will the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Look Like?

- Will identify Riparian Conservation Areas
- Riparian Conservation Area widths will be the same as PACFISH/INFISH
- Desired Conditions will include Riparian Management Objectives (“RMOs”)
- “RMOs” are indicators of stream condition, such as large wood, number of pools, and stream temperature.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy (cont'd)

- Watersheds with a High Priority for Restoration will be identified
- All sub-watersheds will be assigned to 1 of 3 categories.
- This categorization will form the basis for development of standards and guidelines.

Watershed “Categories” (??)

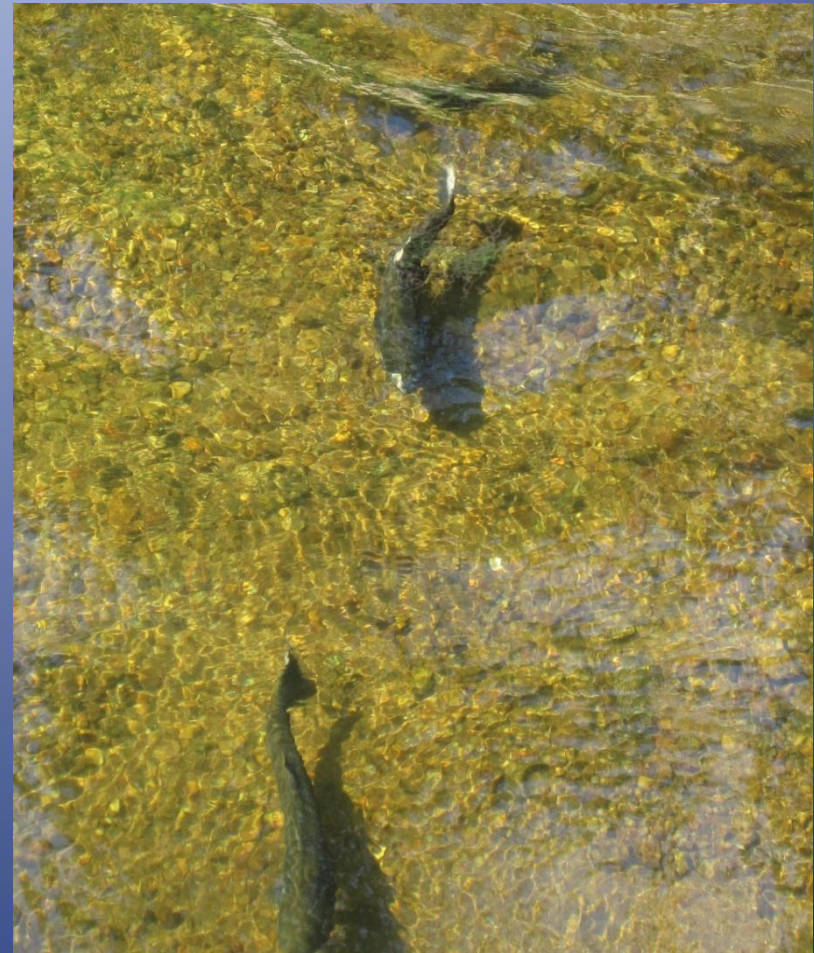
Category 1: High importance to fish, designated critical habitat present, major/minor spawning areas identified, “KEY” watersheds

Category 2: Not Category 1, but high potential to affect Category 1.

Category 3: No critical habitat, low or no potential to affect Category 1, threatened fish not present

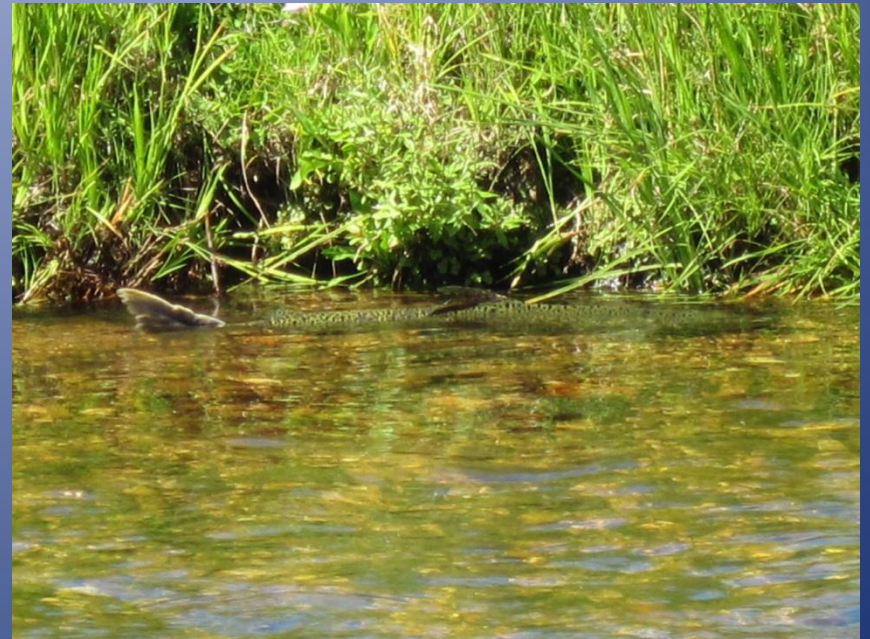
How Would Components Differ?

- Desired conditions will be the same
- Objectives will be the same
- Standards and Guidelines will be like PACFISH/INFISH but MAY allow for some variation according to Category.



Summary

- PACFISH/INFISH will be incorporated into the new plan as an Aquatic Conservation Strategy
- Will have “RCAs” and “RMOs”
- Standards/guidelines may vary slightly depending on category and restoration priority



Questions/Comments?

